

God Hasn't Given Up On Me, Part 5 - Romans 11:28-36 – November 18th, 2012

- Today's teaching will be part five of a series I've titled; "God Hasn't Given Up On Me." With it, we bring our study of Romans 11 to an end.
- Paul has rounded a corner and gone from arguing "that" God isn't through with the Jew, to arguing "why" God isn't through with the Jew.
- We saw this last week, where in verses twenty-five through twenty-seven the Apostle provides the reader with a much-needed perspective.

1. Because He created us for eternity (Verses 25-27)

- Paul describes how the Jews hardening was only temporary, as God has an eternal covenant with them, thus He won't give up on them.

2. Because of His mercy (Verses 28-32)

- (28) As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, (29) for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. (30) Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, (31) so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. (32) For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.
- v28 Paul says concerning the gospel they're enemies on your account but concerning election they're loved on account of the patriarchs.
 - v29-30 God's gifts and call are irrevocable, as those who disobeyed God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience.
 - v31-32 So too have they become disobedient so that they too may receive mercy, for God bound all to disobedience to have mercy on all.

- What Paul is saying here is even in their disobedience God was still not through with the Jew rather, there was only mercy waiting for them.
- The question becomes, why is this so? The answer is found in verse twenty-nine where Paul says it's because of Who and how God is.
- This because God does not change His mind, which is why His gifts and callings are without repentance. Simply put, they are irrevocable.

- The reason God's gifts and callings are irrevocable is because that's God's nature, in that He can't change because it's against Who He is.
- This should be for us such a tremendous source of encouragement knowing not just that God hasn't given up on me, it's knowing He can't.
- He's the same merciful God yesterday, today, and forever, and as such we, like them then, are the recipients of His kindness and mercy.

- Notice Paul says they obtained mercy through disobedience. He's saying God used Israel's disobedience to show mercy to the Gentiles.
- In other words, if God could use the disobedience of Israel to show mercy to the Gentiles, then so too can He also show mercy to the Jew.
- Maybe better said, when the Jews see how merciful God has been to the Gentiles, it will have the effect of wooing them back to God.

One commentator said it best this way; "...when they see the beauty of God's mercy in you, their hearts will be softened and they too will open themselves to receive mercy. ...Paul's point is that God uses the disobedience of some to make the gospel overflow to others, and then the mercy to others overflows back to bring mercy to some who originally disobeyed. ...God has chosen to make mercy so attractive that those who have not received it will be envious of those who have."

3. Because of His glory (Verses 33-36)

- (33) Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! (34) "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (35) "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" (36) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.
- v33 Paul declares the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of God in how unsearchable His judgments, and untraceable His paths.
 - v34-35 He asks, who has known the mind of the Lord or been His counselor or has ever given to God that God should somehow repay him.
 - v36 Paul then goes on to gloriously declare that from Him and through Him and to Him are all things, for to Him be the glory forever, Amen!

- It's as if Paul is just surrendering to the glory and majesty of God's riches and wisdom because no one can know the mind of the Lord.
- In other words quit trying to figure out what God is doing in your life. You can't know the mind of God nor can you know the ways of God.
- God will do, what He's going to do, and He always does it in His way, in His time, and for His glory, because of His majesty.

- Be that as it may, it's not just because of God's mercy, it's because of God's glory in the sense that the nature of God, brings glory to God.
- I'm convinced it's for this reason that we have such graphic details of the horrible sins committed by God's people recorded in scripture.
- It's not to point out how sinful they were rather it points us to how merciful God is, and in so doing, show us the goodness and glory of God.

- Perhaps you'll indulge me just a bit, as I attempt to expound on the bigness of these verses this because they're packed so full of so much.
- I think I'd be remiss were I not to mention how Paul quotes Isaiah 40:13, and Job 41:11, in his attempt to grasp the depth of God's riches.
- The reason this is important to know is that it speaks to how only God is glorified by virtue of the fact that no man could have planned this.

- Not only could no man have planned this, no man could have counseled God and given Him advice concerning His plan of restoration.
- Even the way Paul says it is fascinating to say the least. He sums everything up saying; "from Him, through Him and to Him are all things.
- Thus, to Him be the glory forever! It's so simple yet it's so profound, such that His wisdom, knowledge and judgments are unsearchable.

F.B. Meyer of this said; "All these words are monosyllables. A child just learning to read could easily spell them out. But who shall exhaust their meaning?"

- In other words, I'm left with no other choice but to rightly conclude that, try as I may, there is simply no way for me to know the mind of God.
- I love what J.B. Phillips said related to figuring God out; "If God was small enough to figure out, He wouldn't be big enough to worship."
- The bottom line is, no matter how bad I've been, or the bad I've done, God has not given up on me because of His goodness and His glory.